

Message Text

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72-61
ACTION OIC-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 IO-03 EB-03 STR-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 699

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 3858

LIMDIS

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: GATT
SUBJ: GATT DIRECTOR GENERAL

REF: GENEVA 3196

1. GATT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN (JAPANESE AMBASSADOR KITAHARA) PROPOSES TO HOLD HEADS OF DEL MEETING FOLLOWING COUNCIL MEETING JULY 30 TO INCREASE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPRESENTATION ALLOWANCE FROM 6000 DOLLARS TO 45,000 SWISS FRANCS. ARGUMENTS ARE THIS WOULD (A) MAKE ALLOWANCE COMPARABLE TO THOSE OF HEADS OF UNESCO, ILO AND WHO, WHICH HAVE BEEN RAISED TO 15,000 DOLLARS SINCE PRESENT GATT DG LEVEL ESTABLISHED IN 1968, AND (B) RESTORE SWISS FRANC VALUE OF ALLOWANCE AT TIME IT WAS INSTITUTED (10,000 DOLLARS EQUALLED SF 43,200 IN 1968 WHEN PRESENT LEVEL ESTABLISHED) WHO ALLOWANCE INCREASED FROM 10,000 LAST MONTH. DECISION OF CPS TO ESTABLISH BUDGET IN SWISS FRANCS ALSO NOTED ALONG WITH FACT ALMOST NO INCREASE PROPOSED TO MEET DOMESTIC PRICE INFLATION. ACTION PROPOSED TO BE RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 1973.

2. KITAHARA SAID MATTER WAS EMBARRASSING TO HIM - HE SHOULD HAVE MADE PROPOSAL IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT CONSIDERATION OF INCREASE IN DEPUTIES ALLOWANCE (REFTEL) - AND HE HOPES US WILL GO ALONG.

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3. WE GAVE PROPOSAL RATHER CHILLY RECEPTION, SAYING WE CERTAINLY

WOULD NOT WISH TO EMBARRASS AMBASSADOR KITACHARA BUT US
NOT COMMITTED SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE TO ALIGNMENT OF GATT
DG LEVELS TO THOSE OF THESE THREE ORGANIZATIONS AND THAT WE HAD
OPPOSED LEVELS IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AT LEAST IN SOME INSTANCS.
WE ALSO QUESTIONED NEED FOR HIGHER LEVEL. WE SAID WE WOULD
REFER MATTER TO WASHINGTON.

4. COMMENT: WE REGARD FRANC VALUE ARGUMENT AS VALID,
CASES FOR COMPARABILITY AND NEED AS LESS CONVINCING. HOWEVER,
IN LIGHT OF POSITIONS ON DEPUTIES ALLOWANCES (REFEL), WE ANTICIPATE
NO SUPPORT IF WE OPPOSE INCREASE. GUIDANCE REQUESTED SOONEST.

BASSIN

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